

From: P W Mueller
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft settlement

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I am a computer owner, user and curser. More importantly I am a Microsoft product user. The reason I use Microsoft products, windows, office and word and other support conveniences is because these programs work!.The reason I do not use other programs is simply "they do not work" I know that because I have a box full of them and I spent far more in money and frustration for each of them than I paid or endure for Microsoft soft ware .

I know the difference between good tools and bad because 1938 was not a good year for computing tools or an open minds to wacky ideas that employed the use of the wind to transport, record and store data....Yes I believed in the telephone but just barely . Like magic we were told we could instantly retrieve and manipulation documents stored somewhere on a main frame and paper would be a eliminated or possibly eviscerated to quote the State department . To say I was opposed is an understatement but in the late 1980's I was wired with the state of the art Rainbow computing system. My office was now efficient! My people could now do in days what previously took hours by hand. I was now part of the future supervising people that hated me and their job. With a single key stroke or blip in the power or a lightening strike days of work was lost for ever. Since those days I have used many generations of bad programing and worse programs bought by the "DOD" If I forced myself to remember bad memories of my youth I could probably list a number of them but the one I remember most was a \$4 million dollar system that was brought into our department The company unloaded the system and left, we sent people to off to a school in the south that arrived at a empty ware house we never heard another word from the company. God alone knows how many Millions of dollars was picked from the pockets of the Government but not a single word was ever uttered by the "DOJ" pursuing this theft of public money.

The point of that boring dissertation is that somewhere Microsoft came along and some bright young man installed an unauthorized copy and wonders of wonders the promise of the future became a reality. We could do all those things that failed with all those other systems.

Now my question to the "DOJ" is why is the "DOJ" so hot on the trail of Microsoft? A company that produces a good product, that supports the community, the State, and the Nation as well as poor countries around the world? Yet by admission the "DOJ" does not have time to prosecute, arraign or even pursue companies and corporations that are absolute frauds. Janet Reno was proud to announce to the world that she had 13 "DOJ" lawyers in Washington DC working full time going after Microsoft and a complete office of the "DOJ" some where in the west working on this one case FULL TIME yet

she and "DOJ" were so under staffed and undermanned that it was not possible to even arrest known criminals, the telemarketer's simply stealing from people, the travelers that move about the country that go as far as forcing the elderly to pay for unwanted and worthless construction and repairs, drug dealers, gang's, to hardly say anything about the ENRONs ! Or what we know now as the true cost of porous borders This list can go on for a very long time. Sadly the "DOJ" knows all this, none of this is news or even new to them or any one else. So again I ask why is the "DOJ" wasting my tax dollars to come to the aid of a number of " Johnny come lately's " that can not produce a quality product who's motives are clearly to cash in on what Microsoft started from the ground up with a few bucks and guts and neglecting the real problems that are a plague to our society.

When Microsoft supports a communities it does so with a dollar at full value unlike the .010 cents on the dollar a community might get from a government program, when Microsoft gives money, property and training to the community it does so with money it earned unlike the government.

The existence of Microsoft is a United States success story that should be supported not vilified!....Bill Gates has not run to a foreign country to produce his wares. He started here and so far has stayed here and it baffles me as to why the "DOJ" is so intent on destroying an American success story. It certainly is not for the reasons stated by the "DOJ" "consumer protection".....I paid "\$398 plus for Corel's word perfect" (a good program) I paid \$98 for Microsoft windows and another \$89 for Microsoft word (combined far more useful than Corel's program) So who do I need protection from? Microsoft! I don't believe so! So.. to the department of justice once again I say what is going on? I see this pursuit of Microsoft as a vendetta that was clearly stated to the nation and media by Judge Jackson, Janet Reno, and Klien.....and that is a fleecing of the tax payers forcing us to pay for the destruction of a good company and the gifting of funds and rewards to companies that produce inferior products. Companies that want Bill Gates and Microsoft to give them the keys to success as directed by the DOJ" and this is wrong!

Sincerely Paul W. Mueller